



Lewis County

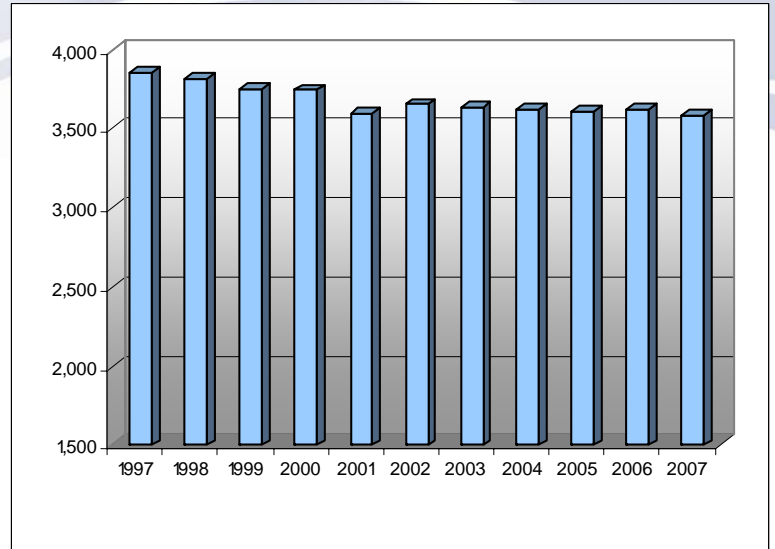
October 2008

Population

After growing slowly for several years, Lewis County's population peaked at 3,856 in 1997. Over the next 10 years, it fell 7 percent to 3,581, while U.S. population grew 11 percent and the State of Idaho's population grew 22 percent. Declining job opportunities in the natural resource-based industries that are the county's mainstay caused some young families to move out, while some retirees moved to the area to enjoy its rural charm, scenic beauty, hunting and fishing opportunities and safe communities. Also offsetting some of the drain are people now using some parts of Lewis County as bedroom communities for Lewiston.

Population of the county's incorporated cities are: Kamiah, 1,090; Craigmont, 520; Nezperce, 490; Winchester, 290; and Reubens, 70.

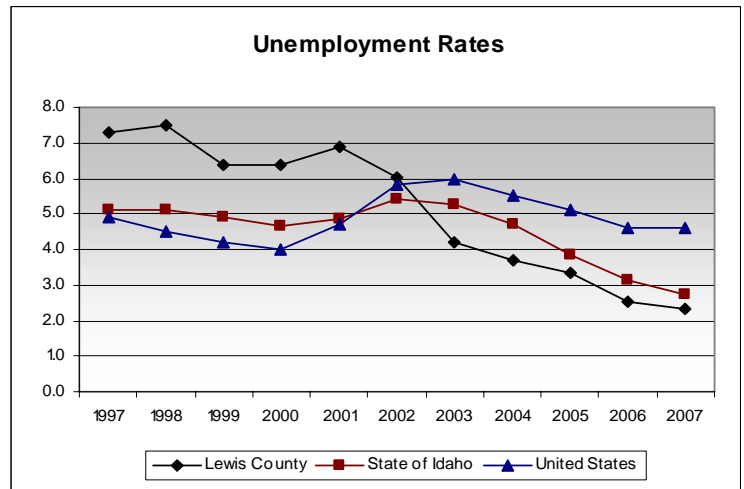
Work Force Trends



Labor Force & Employment

Lewis County remains heavily dependent on natural resource industries—especially agriculture and forest products. Since 1980, jobs in agriculture have decreased by one third. Currently, high prices for wheat and other grains are giving farms added buying power, which is helping service and retail businesses. Over time, the forest products industry has lost jobs, but it remains a major source of jobs in several communities in Lewis County. During the last couple of years, falling U.S. housing starts have depressed lumber prices, forcing some mills to reduce hours or cut jobs. Today, 90 people work at sawmills, and another 40 in the logging industry.

Only 40 people work in other manufacturing businesses. The largest is Hillco Technologies in Nezperce,



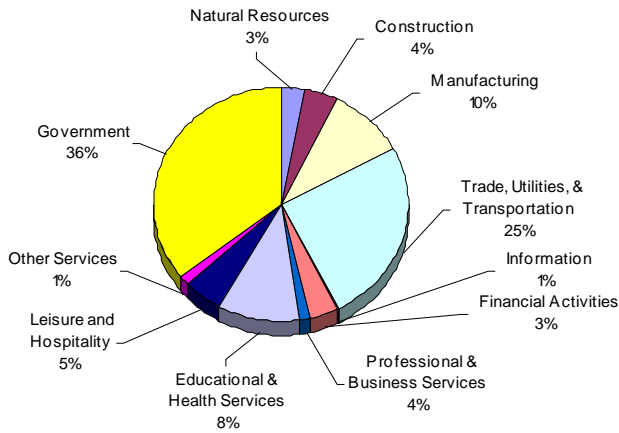
Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	1,756	1,743
Total Employment	1,716	1,684
Unemployed	39	59
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.2	3.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

which designs and makes equipment to keep farm combines level.

The county's tourism industry remains small. Public lands within the county, including Winchester State Park, provide recreational opportunities, which help to attract tourists and potential residents.

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	1,611	1,607	1,540	1,739	1,708	1,749	1,672	1,704	1,727	1,718	1,772
Unemployment	118	121	99	111	118	105	70	63	58	43	41
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.3	7.5	6.4	6.4	6.9	6.0	4.2	3.7	3.3	2.5	2.3
Employment	1,493	1,486	1,441	1,628	1,590	1,643	1,602	1,641	1,670	1,675	1,731

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



Economic Development

Ida-Lew Economic Development Council is a nonprofit organization recruiting new businesses, assisting existing businesses to grow, promoting the infrastructure that will sustain long-term economic growth, and otherwise strengthening and diversifying the economies of Lewis and Idaho Counties.

The Nezperce Tribe also plays a major role in economic and community development in parts of Lewis, Clearwater and Nez Perce counties.

Major Employers

City of Kamiah
Cloningers Harvest Foods (grocery)
Flying B Ranch (tourism)
Highland Joint School District 305
Hillco Technologies (farm equip. manufacturer)
Idaho Department of Lands
It'se-Ye-Casino (Nez Perce Tribe)
Kamiah Joint School District 304
Kamiah Mills
Nezperce Joint School District 302
Seeds Inc.

Occupational Wages*

Starting Pay

Agricultural Workers	\$9.00
Assemblers	\$8.00
Bookkeepers	\$8.50
Carpenters	\$14.50
Cashiers	\$7.00
Cooks, Restaurant	\$7.00
Janitors	\$8.20
Laborers, Construction	\$9.50
Nurses, Registered	\$19.00
Salespersons, Retail	\$7.50
Secretaries	\$10.03
Teachers	\$19.12
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$13.50

*Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	1,083	\$18,447	1,340	\$23,246	1,395	\$23,666
Agriculture	85	\$21,073	132	\$24,582	117	\$27,097
Mining	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	33	\$17,406	51	\$21,281	53	\$22,280
Manufacturing	70	\$26,549	125	\$30,759	138	\$30,174
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	261	\$18,494	329	\$20,718	340	\$21,586
Information	*	*	7	\$31,081	*	*
Financial Activities	38	\$15,394	50	\$21,888	46	\$20,473
Professional and Business Services	*	*	*	*	*	*
Educational and Health Services	37	\$14,875	66	\$20,889	138	\$18,689
Leisure and Hospitality	128	\$8,007	81	\$9,500	69	\$9,786
Other Services	4	\$9,003	23	\$23,663	18	\$15,784
Government	397	\$20,483	452	\$25,681	446	\$26,569

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Lewis County	\$19,126	\$20,343	\$21,404	\$22,853	\$24,416	\$23,665	\$25,284	\$26,284	\$27,127	\$27,576
State of Idaho	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
Idaho Department of Labor
305 N. State St.
Grangeville, ID 83530-0550 Ph: (208) 983-0440

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